

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation as well as being abhorrent in general. That Sinclair can even do this is illustrative of what a sad day this is in journalism. Sinclair should be ashamed.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies or political parties control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for them and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter to us, not issues that Sinclair and the people who control it think are good for America. My opinion about what is good for America sharply differs from Sinclair's. If Sinclair insists on showing the anti-Kerry film, it should also show the pro-Kerry film "Going Upriver" shortly thereafter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.